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Lithuanian S.S.R. Constitution

CONSTITUTION

(FUNDAMENTAL LAW)

of the

LITHUANIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

of August 25, 1940

As Amended Through April 7, 1948

April 1950 50¢

American Russian Institute

58 Park Avenue New York 16, New York

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C O N S T I T U T I O N

(Fundamental Law)

of the

LITHUANIAN

SOVIET SOCIALIST

REPUBLIC

of August 25, 1940

As amended through April 7, 1948

CONTENTS

		Page
Chapter I.	The Social Structure	1
Chapter II.	The State Structure	2
Chapter III.	The Higher Organs of State Power of the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic	4
Chapter IV.	The Organs of State Administration of the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic	6
Chapter V.	The Local Organs of State Power	8
Chapter VI.	The Budget of the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic	10
Chapter VII.	The Courts and the Procurator's Office	11
Chapter VIII.	Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens	12
Chapter IX.	The Electoral System	14
Chapter X.	Arms, Flag, Capital	15
Chapter XI.	Procedure for Amending the Constitution	15

p. ii

12: Amer. Russ. Inst. (no date) 1950 RB5 Lithuania RB5

C O N S T I T U T I O N

(Fundamental Law)

of the

LITHUANIAN

SOVIET SOCIALIST

REPUBLIC

of August 25, 1940

As amended through April 7, 1948

Chapter I. The Social Structure

642 Art. 1. The Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic is a socialist state of workers and peasants.

Art. 2. The political foundation of the Lithuanian SSR is the Soviets of Working People's Deputies, firmly established as a result of the overthrow of the power of the landlords and the capitalists and the establishment of the dictatorship of the proletariat.

Art. 3. All power in the Lithuanian SSR belongs to the working people of town and country as represented by the Soviets of Working People's Deputies.

471 Art. 4. The economic foundation of the Lithuanian SSR is the socialist system of economy and the socialist ownership of the instruments and means of production, firmly established as the result of the liquidation of the capitalist system of economy, the abolition of private ownership of the instruments and means of production in large industrial enterprises, and the nationalization of such enterprises, banks, transport and means of communication with a view to the complete abolition of the exploitation of man by man and the construction of a socialist system of society.

421 Art. 5. Socialist property in the Lithuanian SSR exists either in the form of state property (belonging to the whole people) or in the form of co-operative property.

Art. 6. The land, its mineral wealth, waters, forests, mills, factories, mines, rail, water and air transport, banks, communications, large state-organized agricultural enterprises (state farms, machine and tractor stations and the like), as well as municipal enterprises and large dwelling houses in the cities and industrial localities, are state property, that is, belong to the whole people.

474 Art. 7. The common enterprises of co-operative organizations, with their
421 livestock and implements, the products of co-operative organizations, as well as their common buildings, constitute the common, socialist property of the co-operative organizations.

12: Amer. Russ. Inst. (no date) 1950 RB5 Lithuania RB5

[Lithuanian Constitution as of April 7, 1948]

472 Art. 8. Alongside the socialist system of economy in the Lithuanian SSR the law permits the small private economy of individual peasants, artisans and handicraftsmen and small private industrial and trading enterprises.

423 Art. 9. The land occupied by peasant holdings as provided by law is secured for their use free of charge and for an unlimited time.

421 Art. 10. The personal property right of citizens in their incomes and savings from work, in their dwelling houses and subsidiary home enterprises, in articles of domestic economy and use and articles of personal use and convenience, as well as the right of citizens to inherit personal property, is protected by law.

471 Art. 11. The economic life of the Lithuanian SSR is determined and directed
185 by the state national-economic plan, with the aim of increasing the public wealth, of steadily raising the material and cultural standards of the working people, of consolidating the independence of the USSR and strengthening its defensive capacity.

461 Art. 12. Work in the Lithuanian SSR is a duty and a matter of honour for every able-bodied citizen, in accordance with the principle: "He who does not work, neither shall he eat."

The principle applied in the Lithuanian SSR is that of socialism: "From each according to his ability, to each according to his work."

Chapter II. The State Structure

642 Art. 13. For the purpose of mutual assistance among the Union Republics along economic and political lines, as well as along the line of defence, the Lithuanian SSR voluntarily united with the other equal Soviet Socialist Republics, namely:

The Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic,
The Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic,
The Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic,
The Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic,
The Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic,
The Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic,
The Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic,
The Kazakh Soviet Socialist Republic,
The Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic,
The Kirghis Soviet Socialist Republic,
The Tajik Soviet Socialist Republic,
The Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic,
The Turkmen Soviet Socialist Republic,
The Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic and
The Karelo-Finnish Soviet Socialist Republic

in a federal state, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Proceeding from the aforesaid, the Lithuanian SSR ensures to the USSR, as represented by its higher organs of state power and organs of state administration, the rights defined in Art. 14 of the Constitution of the USSR.

Outside of the spheres set forth in Art. 14 of the Constitution of the USSR, the Lithuanian SSR exercises state authority independently, retaining its sovereign rights in full.

[Lithuanian Constitution as of April 7, 1948]

[42] [43] Art. 14. The Lithuanian SSR consists of the districts of Alitus, Anikshchyni, Birzhai, Varena, Vilkaviskis, Vilnyus, Zarasai, Ionishkis, Kaishyadoris, Kaunas, Kedainyai, Kelmena, Klaipeda, Krotinga, Kupishkis, Kurshenai, Lazdiyai, Mazheikyai, Mariyampole, Pagegyai, Prienveshis, Pasvalis, Plunge, Pronai, Radvilishkis, Rasseinyai, Rokishkis, Taurage, Telshai, Trakai, Ukmerge, Utyana, Shakyai, Shvenchonis, Shilute, Shyaulyai, Yurbarkas; and of the cities of Vilnius, Kaunas, Klaipeda, Shyaulyai and Panevezhis which do not form part of districts.

Art. 15. The Lithuanian SSR reserves the right freely to secede from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

Art. 16. The territory of the Lithuanian SSR may not be altered without its consent.

[70] Art. 16a. The Lithuanian SSR has its own Republican military formations.

[48] Art. 16b. The Lithuanian SSR has the right to enter into direct relations with foreign states and to conclude agreements and exchange diplomatic and consular representatives with them.

Art. 17. The laws of the USSR are binding within the territory of the Lithuanian SSR.

[64] Art. 18. Every citizen of the Lithuanian SSR is a citizen of the USSR. Citizens of all other Union Republics enjoy on the territory of the Lithuanian SSR equal rights with citizens of the Lithuanian SSR.

Art. 19. The jurisdiction of the Lithuanian SSR, as represented by its higher organs of state power and organs of state administration, embraces:

a) Adoption of the Constitution of the Lithuanian SSR and control over its observance;

b) Establishment of the administrative-territorial divisions of the Lithuanian SSR and of the boundaries of districts and volosts;

c) Legislation of the Lithuanian SSR;

d) Maintenance of public order and safeguarding the rights of citizens;

e) Approval of the national-economic plan of the Lithuanian SSR;

f) Approval of the state budget of the Lithuanian SSR and of the report on its fulfilment;

g) Determination of state and local taxes, imposts and non-tax revenues in conformity with the laws of the USSR, as well as direction of the fulfilment of local budgets;

h) Direction of insurance and savings;

i) Administration of the banks, industrial, agricultural and trading enterprises and organizations subordinate to the Republic, as well as direction of local industry;

j) Control and superintendence of the condition and administration of enterprises subordinate to the Union;

k) Establishment of the procedure governing the use of land, mineral wealth, forests and waters;

l) Direction of dwelling-houses and the municipal economy, dwelling house construction and the modernization of cities and other inhabited places;

m) Road Building; direction of local transport and communications;

[Lithuanian constitution as of April 7, 1948]

642 n) Labor legislation; legislation concerning marriage and the family;

o) Direction of public health;

p) Direction of social maintenance;

q) Direction of elementary, secondary and higher education;

r) Direction of the cultural, educational and scientific organizations and institutions of the Lithuanian SSR, and administration of the cultural, educational and scientific organizations and institutions of all-Republican importance;

s) Direction and organization of physical culture and sports;

t) Organization of the judicial organs of the Lithuanian SSR;

u) Granting the rights of citizenship of the Lithuanian SSR;

v) Amnesty and pardon of citizens convicted by judicial organs of the Lithuanian SSR;

w) Establishment of the representation of the Lithuanian SSR in international relations;

x) Organization of the military formations of the Lithuanian SSR.

Chapter III. The Higher Organs of State Power of the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic

644 Art. 20. The highest organ of state power in the Lithuanian SSR is the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR.

Art. 21. The Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR is elected for a term of four years by the citizens of the Lithuanian SSR voting by election districts on the basis of one deputy for every 15,000 of the population.

Art. 22. The Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR exercises all rights vested in the Lithuanian SSR in accordance with articles 13 and 19 of the Constitution of the Lithuanian SSR, in so far as they do not by virtue of the Constitution, come within the jurisdiction of organs of the Lithuanian SSR that are accountable to the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR, that is, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR, the Council of Ministers of the Lithuanian SSR, and the Ministries of the Lithuanian SSR.

Art. 23. The Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR is the sole legislative organ of the Lithuanian SSR.

Art. 24. A law is considered adopted if passed by the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR by a simple majority vote.

643 Art. 25. Laws passed by the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR are published in the Lithuanian and Russian languages over the signatures of the President and Secretary of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR.

Art. 26. The Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR elects a Chairman of the Supreme Soviet and two Vice-Chairmen.

Art. 27. The Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR presides at the sittings of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR and has charge of the conduct of its business and proceedings.

643 646 Art. 28. Sessions of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR are convened by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR twice a year.

[Lithuanian Constitution as of April 7, 1948]

643 Extraordinary sessions are convened by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet
644 of the Lithuanian SSR at its discretion or on the demand of one-third of the deputies to the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR.

Art. 29. The Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR elects the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR, consisting of a President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR, two Vice-Presidents, a Secretary of the Presidium and eleven members of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR.

Art. 30. The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR is accountable to the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR for all its activities.

643 Art. 31. The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR:

a) Convenes the sessions of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR;

b) Issues decrees;

c) Gives interpretations of the laws of the Lithuanian SSR in operation;

d) Conducts nation-wide polls (referendums);

645 e) Annuls decisions and orders of the Council of Ministers of the Lithuanian SSR, and likewise decisions and orders of the district Soviets of Working People's Deputies, if they do not conform to law;

f) In the intervals between sessions of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR, releases and appoints Ministers of the Lithuanian SSR, on the recommendation of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Lithuanian SSR, subject to subsequent confirmation by the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR;

g) Confers titles of honour of the Lithuanian SSR;

h) Exercises the right of pardoning citizens convicted by judicial organs of the Lithuanian SSR;

i) Appoints and recalls diplomatic representatives of the Lithuanian SSR to foreign states;

j) Receives the letters of credence and recall of diplomatic representatives accredited to it by foreign states.

644 Art. 32. The Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR elects a Credentials Committee to verify the credentials of the members of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR.

On the report of the Credentials Committee, the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR decides whether to recognize the credentials of deputies or to annul their election.

Art. 33. The Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR, when it deems necessary, appoints commissions of investigation and audit in any matter.

It is the duty of all institutions and officials to comply with the demands of such commissions and to submit to them all necessary materials and documents.

Art. 34. A member of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR may not be prosecuted or arrested without the consent of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR, or, when the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR is not in session, without the consent of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR.

[Lithuanian Constitution as of April 7, 1948]

643 Art. 35. On the expiration of the term of office of the Supreme Soviet of
644 the Lithuanian SSR, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR orders new elections to be held within a period not exceeding two months from the date of expiration of the term of office of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR.

Art. 36. On the expiration of the term of office of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR retains its powers until the newly-elected Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR shall have formed a new Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR.

Art. 37. The newly-elected Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR is convened by the outgoing Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR not later than three months after the elections.

645 [644] Art. 38. The Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR appoints the Government of the Lithuanian SSR, namely, the Council of Ministers of the Lithuanian SSR.

Chapter IV. The Organs of State Administration of the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic

Art. 39. The highest executive and administrative organ of state power of the Lithuanian SSR is the Council of Ministers of the Lithuanian SSR.

Art. 40. The Council of Ministers of the Lithuanian SSR is responsible and accountable to the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR, or, in the intervals between sessions of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR, to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR.

Art. 41. The Council of Ministers of the Lithuanian SSR issues decisions and orders on the basis and in pursuance of the laws in operation of the USSR and the Lithuanian SSR, and of the decisions and orders of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, and verifies their execution.

Art. 42. Decisions and orders of the Council of Ministers of the Lithuanian SSR are binding throughout the territory of the Lithuanian SSR.

Art. 43. The Council of Ministers of the Lithuanian SSR:

a) Coordinates and directs the work of Republican and Union-Republican Ministries of the Lithuanian SSR and of other institutions under its jurisdiction; coordinates and directs the work of the authorized representatives of all-Union Ministries;

b) Prepares the national-economic plan of the Lithuanian SSR, transmits it to the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR for its approval and adopts measures to carry it out;

c) Prepares the state budget of the Lithuanian SSR and draws up the local budgets of the Lithuanian SSR; transmits the state budget to the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR for its approval and adopts measures for the fulfilment of the state and local budgets of the Lithuanian SSR;

d) Adopts measures for the maintenance of public order, for the protection of the interests of the state, and for the safeguarding of the rights of citizens;

[Lithuanian Constitution as of April 7, 1948]

645

e) Directs and verifies the work of the Executive Committees of the district Soviets of Working People's Deputies;

f) Sets up, whenever necessary, special Committees and Central Administrations under the Council of Ministers of the Lithuanian SSR for economic and cultural affairs;

g) Exercises guidance in the sphere of the relations of the Lithuanian SSR with foreign states, on the basis of the general procedure established by the USSR governing the relations of Union Republics with foreign states;

h) Directs the organization of the military formations of the Lithuanian SSR.

Art. 44. The Council of Ministers of the Lithuanian SSR has the right to annul orders and instructions of the Ministers of the Lithuanian SSR, decisions and orders of Executive Committees of district and city Soviets of Working People's Deputies and likewise to suspend decisions and orders of district and city Soviets of Working People's Deputies.

Art. 45. The Council of Ministers of the Lithuanian SSR is appointed by the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR and consists of:

The Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Lithuanian SSR;
The Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Lithuanian SSR;
The Chairman of the State Planning Commission of the Lithuanian SSR;
The Ministers of the Lithuanian SSR;
The Chief of the Arts Administration;
The Chairman of the Committee on Cultural and Educational Institutions.

Art. 46. The Ministers of the Lithuanian SSR direct the branches of state administration which come within the jurisdiction of the Lithuanian SSR.

Art. 47. The Ministers of the Lithuanian SSR, within the limits of the jurisdiction of their respective Ministries, issue orders and instructions on the basis and in pursuance of the laws in operation of the USSR and the Lithuanian SSR, of the decisions and orders of the Council of Ministers of the USSR and of the Council of Ministers of the Lithuanian SSR and of the orders and instructions of the Union-Republican Ministries of the USSR, and verify their execution.

Art. 48. The Ministries of the Lithuanian SSR are either Union-Republican or Republican Ministries.

The following Ministries of the Lithuanian SSR are Union-Republican:

The Ministry of Internal Affairs
The Ministry of the Armed Forces
The Ministry of State Security
The Ministry of State Control
The Ministry of Public Health
The Ministry of Foreign Affairs
The Ministry of Cinematography
The Ministry of Light Industry
The Ministry of the Timber Industry
The Ministry of Forestry
The Ministry of the Meat and Dairy Industry
The Ministry of the Food Industry

[Lithuanian constitution as of April 7, 1948]

645

The Ministry of the Building Materials Industry
The Ministry of the Fish Industry
The Ministry of Agriculture
The Ministry of State Farms
The Ministry of Trade
The Ministry of Finance
The Ministry of Justice;

The following Ministries of the Lithuanian SSR are Republican:
The Ministry of the Municipal Economy
The Ministry of Local Industry
The Ministry of Construction
The Ministry of Education
The Ministry of Social Maintenance.

Art. 49. Each Union-Republican Ministry of the Lithuanian SSR directs the branch of state administration of the Lithuanian SSR entrusted to it, with the exception of only a limited number of enterprises, according to a list confirmed by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, and is subordinate both to the Council of Ministers of the Lithuanian SSR and the corresponding Union-Republican Ministry of the USSR.

Art. 50. Each Republican Ministry of the Lithuanian SSR directs the branch of state administration entrusted to it and is directly subordinate to the Council of Ministers of the Lithuanian SSR.

Art. 51. The Government of the Lithuanian SSR or a Minister of the Lithuanian SSR to whom a question of a member of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR is addressed must give a verbal or written reply in the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR within a period not exceeding three days.

Chapter V. The Local Organs of State Power

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Art. 52. The organs of state power in districts, cities, volosts, small towns and apilinki are the Soviets of Working People's Deputies.

Art. 53. The Soviets of Working People's Deputies of districts, cities, volosts, small towns and apilinki are elected by the working people of the respective districts, cities, volosts, small towns and apilinki for a term of two years.

Art. 54. The Soviets of Working People's Deputies of districts, cities, volosts, small towns and apilinki direct cultural, political and economic affairs on their territory, draw up the local budgets, direct the work of the organs of administration subordinate to them, ensure the maintenance of public order, assist in strengthening the defensive capacity of the country and ensure the observance of the laws and the protection of the rights of citizens.

Art. 55. The Soviets of Working People's Deputies adopt decisions and issue orders within the limits of the powers vested in them by the laws of the USSR and the Lithuanian SSR.

Art. 56. The executive and administrative organ of the Soviet of Working People's Deputies of districts, cities, volosts, small towns and apilinki is the Executive Committee elected by it, consisting of a Chairman, Vice-Chairmen a Secretary and members.

[Lithuanian Constitution as of April 7, 1948]

631 Art. 57. The executive and administrative organ of the Soviet of Working
[623] People's Deputies in small localities is the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman and the Secretary elected by the Soviet of Working People's Deputies.

Art. 58. The Executive Committees of the Soviets of Working People's Deputies exercise guidance in cultural, political and economic affairs within their territory on the basis of decisions taken by the corresponding Soviets of Working People's Deputies and superior state organs.

Art. 59. Sessions of district Soviets of Working People's Deputies are convened by their Executive Committees not less than four times a year.

Art. 60. Sessions of volost Soviets of Working People's Deputies are convened by their respective Executive Committees not less than six times a year.

[624] Art. 61. Sessions of Soviets of Working People's Deputies of cities, small towns and apilinki are convened by their respective executive organs not less than once a month.

Art. 62. The Soviets of Working People's Deputies each elect a Chairman and a Secretary for the duration of their sessions to conduct the sittings of the sessions.

Art. 63. The executive organs of the Soviets of Working People's Deputies are directly accountable both to the Soviets of Working People's Deputies which elected them and to the executive organs of the respective superior Soviets of Working People's Deputies.

Art. 64. The superior Executive Committees of the Soviets of Working People's Deputies have the right to annul decisions and orders of inferior Executive Committees and to suspend decisions and orders of inferior Soviets of Working People's Deputies.

Art. 65. The superior Soviets of Working People's Deputies have the right to annul decisions and orders of inferior Soviets of Working People's Deputies and of their Executive Committees.

632 Art. 66. The district Soviets of Working People's Deputies set up the following Departments of their Executive Committees:

- a Department of Roads
- a Department of Public Health
- a Department of the Municipal Economy
- a Department of Cultural and Educational Work
- a Department of Public Education
- a General Department
- a Department of Agriculture
- a Department of Social Maintenance
- a Department of Trade
- a Department of Finance
- a Planning Commission
- a Cadres Sector

under the Chairman of the Executive Committees. In addition, in accordance with the specific features of the economy of the district, the district Soviets of Working People's Deputies may set up other Departments or Administrations subject to confirmation by the corresponding Ministries.

[Lithuanian constitution as of April 7, 1948]

[625] Art. 67. The all-Union Ministries, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the
627 Lithuanian SSR and the Ministry of State Security of the Lithuanian SSR set up their Administrations under the district Soviets of Working People's Deputies in accordance with the conditions of the district and on the basis of the laws of the USSR and of the Lithuanian SSR.

Art. 68. The Departments and Administrations of the Executive Committees of the district Soviets of Working People's Deputies are subordinate in their activities both to the district Soviets of Working People's Deputies and their Executive Committees and to the corresponding Ministries of the Lithuanian SSR.

635 Art. 69. The city Soviets of Working People's Deputies set up the following Departments of their Executive Committees:

- a Department of Public Health
- a Department of the Municipal Economy
- a Department of Cultural and Educational Work
- a Department of Public Education
- a General Department
- a Department of Social Maintenance
- a Department of Trade
- a Department of Finance
- a Planning Commission
- a Cadres Sector

under the Chairman of the Executive Committee and, in addition, in accordance with the specific features of the city's industry and its suburban and municipal economy,

- a Department of Local Industry and
- a Department of Agriculture.

Art. 70. The Departments of the Executive Committees of the city Soviets of Working People's Deputies are subordinate in their activities both to the respective city Soviets of Working People's Deputies and their Executive Committees and to the corresponding Departments of the Executive Committees of the district Soviets of Working People's Deputies.

Art. 71. The Departments of the Executive Committees of the Vilnius, Kaunas, Klaipeda, Shyaulyai and Panevezhis city Soviets of Working People's Deputies are subordinate in their activities both to the Soviets of Working People's Deputies of these cities and their Executive Committees and to the corresponding Ministry of the Lithuanian SSR directly.

631 Art. 72. On the expiration of the terms of office of the Soviets of Working People's Deputies, their executive and administrative organs retain their powers until the newly elected Soviets shall have formed new executive and administrative organs.

Chapter VI. The Budget of the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic

646 Art. 73. The state budget of the Lithuanian SSR is drawn up by the Council
652 of Ministers of the Lithuanian SSR and submitted by it to the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR for its approval.

[645] Upon its approval by the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR the state budget of the Lithuanian SSR is published for general information.

[Lithuanian Constitution as of April 7, 1948]

646 652 Art. 74. The Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR elects a Budget Commission, which reports its conclusions on the state budget of the Lithuanian SSR to the Supreme Soviet.

Art. 75. The report on the fulfillment of the state budget of the Lithuanian SSR is approved by the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR and published for general information.

631 652 Art. 76. The budgets of the district, city, volost, small town and apilinki Soviets include the revenues from the local economy, deductions from the state revenues collected within their territory and likewise receipts from local taxes and imposts in amounts fixed by the laws of the USSR and the Lithuanian SSR.

Chapter VII. The Courts and the Procurator's Office

692 Art. 77. In the Lithuanian SSR justice is administered by the Supreme Court of the Lithuanian SSR, the District and People's Courts, the Special Courts of the USSR established by decision of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR.

[693] Art. 78. In all Courts cases are tried with the participation of people's assessors, except in cases specially provided for by law.

Art. 79. The Supreme Court of the Lithuanian SSR is the highest judicial organ of the Lithuanian SSR. The Supreme Court of the Lithuanian SSR is charged with the supervision of the judicial activities of all the judicial organs of the Lithuanian SSR.

[646] Art. 80. The Supreme Court of the Lithuanian SSR is elected by the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR for a term of five years.

Art. 81. District Courts are elected by the district Soviets of Working People's Deputies for a term of five years.

Art. 82. People's Courts are elected by the citizens of the cities and volosts on the basis of universal, direct and equal suffrage by secret ballot for a term of three years.

695 [563] Art. 83. Judicial proceedings in the Lithuanian SSR are conducted in the Lithuanian and Russian languages, persons not knowing these languages being guaranteed the opportunity of fully acquainting themselves with the material of the case through an interpreter and likewise the right to use their own language in court.

Art. 84. In all Courts of the Lithuanian SSR cases are heard in public, unless otherwise provided for by law, and the accused is guaranteed the right to defence.

693 Art. 85. Judges are independent and subject only to the law.

Art. 86. Supreme supervisory power to ensure the strict observance of law by all Ministries and institutions subordinated to them, as well as by officials and citizens within the territory of the Lithuanian SSR generally, is exercised by the Procurator-General of the USSR directly and also through the Procurator of the Lithuanian SSR.

[Lithuanian Constitution as of April 7, 1948]

Art. 87. The Procurator of the Lithuanian SSR is appointed by the Procurator-General of the USSR for a term of five years.

Art. 88. District and city procurators are appointed by the Procurator of the Lithuanian SSR subject to the approval of the Procurator-General of the USSR for a term of five years.

Art. 89. The organs of the Procurator's Office perform their functions independently of any local organs whatsoever, being subordinate solely to the Procurator-General of the USSR.

Chapter VIII. Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens

Art. 90. Citizens of the Lithuanian SSR have the right to work, that is, the right to guaranteed employment and payment for their work in accordance with its quantity and quality.

The right to work is ensured by the socialist organization of the national economy, the steady growth of the productive forces of Soviet society, the elimination of the possibility of economic crises and the abolition of unemployment.

Art. 91. The citizens of the Lithuanian SSR have the right to rest and leisure.

The right to rest and leisure is ensured by the establishment of an eight-hour day for factory and office workers, the reduction of the working day to seven or six hours for arduous trades and to four hours in shops where conditions of work are particularly arduous, by the institution of annual vacations with full pay for factory and office workers, and by the provision of a wide network of sanatoria, rest homes and clubs for the accommodation of the working people.

Art. 92. Citizens of the Lithuanian SSR have the right to maintenance in old age and also in case of sickness or disability.

This right is ensured by the extensive development of social insurance of factory and office workers at state expense, free medical service for working people, and the provision of a wide network of health resorts for the use of the working people.

Art. 93. Citizens of the Lithuanian SSR have the right to education.

This right is ensured by universal and compulsory elementary education; by free education up to and including the seventh grade; by a system of state stipends for students of higher educational establishments who excel in their studies; by instruction in schools being conducted in the native language, and by the organization in the factories, state farms and machine and tractor stations of free vocational, technical and agronomic training for the working people.

Art. 94. Women in the Lithuanian SSR are accorded equal rights with men in all spheres of economic, government, cultural, political and other public activity.

The possibility of exercising these rights is ensured by women being accorded an equal right with men to work, payment for work, rest and leisure, social insurance and education, by state protection of the interests of mother and child, state aid to mothers of large families and unmarried mothers, maternity leave with full pay, and the provision of a wide network of maternity homes, nurseries and kindergartens.

[Lithuanian Constitution as of April 7, 1948]

644 Art. 95. Equality of rights of citizens of the Lithuanian SSR, irrespective of their nationality or race, in all spheres of economic, government, cultural, political and other public activity, is an indefeasible law.

Any direct or indirect restriction of the rights of, or, conversely, the establishment of any direct or indirect privileges for, citizens on account of their race or nationality, as well as any advocacy of racial or national exclusiveness or hatred and contempt, is punishable by law.

[659] Art. 96. In order to ensure the citizens freedom of conscience, the church in the Lithuanian SSR is separated from the state, and the school from the church. Freedom of religious worship and freedom of anti-religious propaganda is recognised for all citizens.

Art. 97. In conformity with the interests of the working people, and in order to strengthen the socialist system, the citizens of the Lithuanian SSR are guaranteed by law:

a) freedom of speech;
b) freedom of press;
c) freedom of assembly, including the holding of mass meetings;
d) freedom of street processions and demonstrations.

These civil rights are ensured by placing at the disposal of the working people and their organizations printing presses, stocks of paper, public buildings, the streets, communications facilities and other material requisites for the exercise of these rights.

[575] Art. 98. In conformity with the interests of the working people, and in order to develop the organizational initiative and political activity of the masses of the people, citizens of the Lithuanian SSR are guaranteed the right to unite in public organizations: trade unions, cooperative societies, youth organizations, sport and defence organizations, cultural, technical and scientific societies; and the most active and politically-conscious citizens in the ranks of the working class and other sections of the working people unite in the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (Bolsheviks), which is the vanguard of the working people in their struggle to strengthen and develop the socialist system and is the leading core of all organizations of the working people, both public and state.

Art. 99. Citizens of the Lithuanian SSR are guaranteed inviolability of the person. No person may be placed under arrest except by decision of a court or with the sanction of a procurator.

Art. 100. The inviolability of the homes of citizens and privacy of correspondence are protected by law.

Art. 101. The Lithuanian SSR affords the right of asylum to foreign citizens persecuted for defending the interests of the working people, or for scientific activities, or for struggling for national liberation.

Art. 102. It is the duty of every citizen of the Lithuanian SSR to abide by the Constitution of the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic, to observe the laws, to maintain labour discipline, honestly to perform public duties, and to respect the rules of socialist intercourse.

[Lithuanian constitution as of April 3, 1948]

Art. 103. It is the duty of every citizen of the Lithuanian SSR to safeguard and fortify public, socialist property as the sacred and inviolable foundation of the Soviet system, as the source of the wealth and might of the country, as the source of the prosperity and culture of all the working people.

Persons committing offences against public, socialist property are enemies of the people.

Art. 104. Universal military service is law.

Military service in the Armed Forces of the USSR is an honourable duty of the citizens of the Lithuanian SSR.

Art. 105. To defend the country is the sacred duty of every citizen of the Lithuanian SSR. Treason to the motherland - violation of the oath of allegiance, desertion to the enemy, impairing the military power of the state, espionage - is punishable with all the severity of the law as the most heinous of crimes.

Chapter IX. The Electoral System

Art. 106. Members of all Soviets of Working People's Deputies - of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR and of the district, city, volost, small town and apilinki Soviets of Working People's Deputies - are chosen by the electors on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot.

Art. 107. Elections of deputies are universal: all citizens of the Lithuanian SSR who have reached the age of eighteen, irrespective of race or nationality, sex, religion, education, domicile, social origin, property status or past activities, have the right to vote in the election of deputies and to be elected, with the exception of insane persons and persons who have been convicted by a court of law and whose sentences include deprivation of electoral rights.

Every citizen of the Lithuanian SSR who has reached the age of twenty-one is eligible for election to the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR, irrespective of race, nationality, sex, religion, education, domicile, social origin, property status or past activities.

Art. 108. Elections of deputies are equal: each citizen has one vote; all citizens participate in elections on an equal footing.

Art. 109. Women have the right to elect and be elected on equal terms with men.

Art. 110. Citizens serving in the Armed Forces of the USSR have the right to elect and be elected on equal terms with all other citizens.

Art. 111. Elections of deputies are direct: all Soviets of Working People's Deputies, from apilinki, volost and city Soviets of Working People's Deputies to the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR are elected by the citizens by a direct vote.

Art. 112. Voting at elections of deputies is secret.

Art. 113. Candidates are nominated by election districts.

12: Amer. Russ. Inst. (no date) 1950 RB5 Lithuania RB5

[Lithuanian Constitution as of April 3, 1948]

The right to nominate candidates is secured to public organizations and societies of the working people: Communist Party organizations, trade unions, cooperatives, youth organizations and cultural societies.

Art. 114. It is the duty of every deputy to report to his electors on his work and on the work of his Soviet of Working People's Deputies, and he may be recalled at any time upon decision of a majority of the electors in the manner established by law.

Art. 115. Elections to the Soviets of Working People's Deputies of the Lithuanian SSR are held by election districts on the bases of representation fixed by the Ordinance Concerning Elections to Soviets of Working People's Deputies of the Lithuanian SSR.

Chapter X. Arms, Flag, Capital

Art. 116. The state arms of the Lithuanian SSR are a sickle and hammer of gold on a white background in the rays of the rising sun surrounded by ears of grain and oak leaves and with inscriptions in the Lithuanian and Russian languages: "Workers of All Countries, Unite!"

In the upper part of the arms is a five-pointed star and in the lower part, the letters "LTSR".

Art. 117. The state flag of the Lithuanian SSR is of red cloth with a gold sickle and hammer and the gold letters "Lietuvos TSR" in the upper corner near the staff. The ratio of width to length is 1:2.

Art. 118. The capital of the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic is the City of Vilnius.

Chapter XI. Procedure for Amending the Constitution

Art. 119. The Constitution of the Lithuanian SSR may be amended only by decision of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR adopted by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the votes of the Supreme Soviet.

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Note: The Russian text from which this translation was made was a typed copy authenticated on June 24, 1948 by Mr. S. Pupeikis, Secretary of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Lithuanian SSR.

12: American Russian Institute
642

RB5 Lithuania RB5

[For the complete text of the Constitution of the Lithuania Soviet Socialist Republic of August 25, 1940 as amended through April 7, 1948, see category 116, entire source.]